

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

11

DECISION

TOPIC

Final Action - Chapter 81, Fishing Regulations

NRC approval is requested to amend Chapter 81, Sport Fishing Rule. The proposed amendments establish a 25 daily bag limit on crappie and a 25 daily bag limit on bluegill in public waters of the state.

A total of 172 comments were received from 169 people during the 56 day comment period. One hundred forty one people supported the proposed daily bag limit and 28 people opposed the action.

Marion Conover, Fisheries Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
November 13, 2008

Attachments: Final Rule - Chapter 81 Fishing Regulations
Summary of Public Comments

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION [571]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 81 "Fishing Regulations," Iowa Administrative Code. The proposed amendments establish a statewide daily bag limit for bluegill and crappie in public waters.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on September 10, 2008, as ARC 7146B. Public hearings were held September 30, 2008, and October 1, 2, 3 and 9, 2008. There are no changes from the Notice of Intended Action. These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.67.

These amendments shall be come effective January 21, 2009.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend rule 571--81.1(481A) as follows:

571—81.1(481A) Seasons, territories, daily bag limits, possession limits, and length limits.

INLAND WATERS OF THE STATE					BOUNDARY RIVERS
KIND OF FISH	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH LIMITS	MISSISSIPPI RIVER MISSOURI RIVER BIG SIOUX RIVER

Rock Sturgeon	Closed	0	0		Same as inland waters
Shovelnose Sturgeon	Continuous	None	None	None	Same as inland waters except no harvest allowed in the Big Sioux River and aggregate daily bag limit 10, aggregate possession limit 20, in the Missouri River
Paddlefish*	Continuous	2	4	None	Same as inland waters
Yellow Perch	Continuous	25	50	None	Same as inland waters except no bag or possession limit in the Missouri River
Trout	Continuous	5	10	None*	Same as inland waters
Catfish*	Continuous	8 Lakes 15 Streams	30	None	Same as inland waters except no bag or possession limit in the Mississippi River
Black Bass (Largemouth Bass) (Smallmouth Bass) (Spotted Bass)	Continuous	3 In Aggregate	6	See below*	Continuous open season; aggregate daily bag limit 5, aggregate possession limit 10 See below*
Combined Walleye, Sauger and Saugeye	Continuous*	5*	10*	None*	Continuous open season; aggregate daily bag limit 6, aggregate possession limit 12; except aggregate daily bag limit 4, aggregate possession limit 8, in the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers See below*
Northern Pike	Continuous*	3	6	None	Continuous open season; daily bag limit 5, possession limit 10; except daily bag limit 6, possession limit 12, in the Big Sioux River
INLAND WATERS OF THE STATE					BOUNDARY RIVERS
Muskellunge or Hybrid Muskellunge	Continuous*	1	1	40"	Same as inland waters
Crappie	<u>Continuous</u>	<u>25*</u>	None	<u>None</u>	<u>Same as inland waters except 50 in possession</u>
Bluegill	<u>Continuous</u>	<u>25*</u>	None	<u>None</u>	<u>Same as inland waters</u>

					<u>except in aggregate with pumpkinseed on the Mississippi River</u>
All other fish species*	Continuous	None	None	None	See below*
Frogs (except bullfrogs)	Continuous	48	96	None	Same as inland waters
Bullfrogs (Rana Catesbeiana)	Continuous	12	12	None	Same as inland waters

*Also see 81.2(481A), Exceptions.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 81.2(12) as follows:

81.2(12) Panfish. The daily bag limit for crappie and bluegill applies only to public waters of the state. In all waters of the Mississippi River, the daily bag and possession limit applied individually to crappie, yellow perch and rock bass shall be 25 and 50, respectively. In all waters of the Mississippi River, the daily bag and possession limit applied in the aggregate for bluegill and pumpkinseed and for white bass and yellow bass shall be 25 and 50, respectively.

Date

Richard A. Leopold, Director

Chapter 81 NOIA
Public Comments

8-17-08 (letter) Langley Jensen, Hudson – Supportive. Fishes below the Lake Red Rock Dam and has noticed a large influx of out of state anglers in the spring of the year. He has seen several people keep and take a trash bag full of crappie that were getting ready to spawn. He has seen a noticeable decrease in the size and numbers of crappie in the area.

8-18-08 (phone) Terry Hampshire, Norwalk – Not supportive. Fears panfish will stunt if not enough fish are harvested. Suggests applying the bag limit to the Iowa Great Lakes since they are the ones who want it. Cost of travel to good lakes is expensive and being able to take just 25 crappie is not worth it.

8-23-08 (in person) Terry Jennings, Unionville – Supportive. It is needed to prevent waste of a resource. He objects to people keeping more crappie than they can handle and then discarding the smaller ones at the fish cleaning station because they don't want to clean them all. Has witnessed this more than once at Rathbun. Twenty-five crappie is enough for anyone. He wished a possession limit would have been included in the rule proposal.

8-26-08 (email) Garry Boggs, Albion – Not Supportive. Unless the Iowa biologists have undisputable proof that there is no scientific justification for putting limits on panfish, then I am in favor of trying them. Keep them on waters where they work and remove them on waters where they don't.

9-19-08 (email) John Foster – Supportive. Strongly in favor of limits on panfish. He has seen unlimited buckets of 3 to 5 inch crappie taken from Little Wall Lake and he knows it happens elsewhere. He is sure many of these fish are not consumed and ultimately wasted. There is no reason to waste this resource.

9-24-08 (letters) Elroy Roling, Kingsley; Don Hansen, Hartley; David Christenson, Hartley; John Becker, LeMars – Supportive. They are unable to attend any of the public meetings but support the proposal of a daily limit of 25 crappie and 25 bluegill.

9-25-08 (letters) Chuck Kummerfeld, Sutherland; Steve Langel, LeMars; Orville Tayler, Hartley; Bruce Carlson, Kingsley; Jeffrey Filkins, Hartley; Randall Jelken, LeMars; Clark Schmitz, Brunsville; Joshua Hilfiker, Spencer; Wilbur Petersen, LeMars; Al Wendt, LeMars; Lon Vogt, Hartley; Bruce Nanninga, LeMars; Bill Leonard, Estherville; Wayne Beitelspacher, LeMars; Kelly Cook, Spencer; David Klohs, LeMars; Larry Lindgren, Kingsley; Wayne Snell, LeMars; Rich Schumacher, Hartley; Jeff Langel, LeMars; Barry Lancaster, LeMars; Moris Lonnerman, Hartley; Norb Groff, Hartley; Walter Kummerfeld, Sutherland; Bill Frerk, Primghar; Peder Buck, Hartley; Doug Downing, LeMars; Terry Hilbert, Hartley – Supportive. They are unable to attend any of the public meetings but support the proposal of a daily limit of 25 crappie and 25 bluegill.

9-25-08 (letter) Libby Rodawig, Spirit Lake – Supportive – “I fully support the 25 crappie and bluegill limits being proposed.”

9-26-08 (email) Nick Kertels, North Liberty – Supportive – He fishes a lot and so does his family. “First of all look at all the states that have bag limits and size limits. Second of all I have been on the receiving end of a good day of fishing for bluegills and crappies and when you fillet over 1,000 fish in a weekend and this is a true story that is ridiculous and I will never do that again. No reason for that and you can’t even eat that much fish in a year or give it away fast enough. That was at Three Mile Lake and luckily still is a great fishery. The sad part was everybody that weekend was catching that many and for someone to say that won’t hurt the fish population is nuts. Third and foremost this last winter some guys fishing in Kent Park in Tiffin sat on a school of crappies for like a week straight and the park ranger estimated they took out like 30 – 35 five gallon buckets full of crappies. This is not a very big lake and I heard since this incident only 4 crappies have been caught this summer. For anybody to sit there and say oh this won’t hurt the fishing is wrong and you can fish out a lake and if you do that, what are our kids gonna fish for in the future. We need to practice more catch and release and I do strongly support the bag limit and size limit might be nice too.”

9-26-08 (letter) Brian Joy, Sioux City – Supportive – He has fished many lakes and feels a limit is in order for these fish. “This is a nice amount of fish for anyone and very unwhasteful of our natural resources.”

9-26-08 (letters) Donald Harson, Hartley; Bruce Hanno, LeMars; Bill Klohs, LeMars – Supportive – They are unable to attend any of the meetings but support the proposal of a daily limit of 25 crappie and 25 bluegill.

9-26-08 (email) Donald Christy, Cedar Rapids – Supportive – Totally in favor of bag limits for crappie and bluegill but thinks 25 may still be a little too lenient. In the previous three years he has seen groups from Illinois fishing bluegill during the spawn at Lake Wapello and Lake Sugema. At Lake Wapello they were bringing in about 110 to 130 per 2 men twice a day for close to a week with no size discrimination. They stated they were here to “stock up” since Illinois had a daily limit of 25. Asked about the possibility of a possession limit as well.

9-27-08 (email) David Countryman, Ames – Not Supportive – “Bluegill and crappie are such prolific reproducers in Iowa waters that they soon over populate a pond or lake. When they over populate a body of water they become stunted. Fishermen then quit fishing for those species. To keep a healthy population of bluegill and crappie they need to be fished heavy to keep the numbers down so that the remaining fish can grow bigger. A rule among farm pond owners in the area of southeast Iowa that I grew up in was that no bluegill caught was to be returned to the water. Farm pond owners that had this rule had the best ponds for fishing because the fish were bigger. Other farm ponds managed without this rule became so overpopulated with bluegill that the bluegill were considered only as forage for the bass. Few fisherman fished for the bluegill in those overstocked ponds because the bluegill were so small they were not worth cleaning.” He hopes the department will manage Iowa waters with scientifically based biological criteria to maximize the fishing opportunities of all species and oppose any pressure to impose a bag limit on panfish.

9-28-08 (phone) Robert Crane, Fort Madison – Not Supportive – He travels to Rathbun for two weeks every year and a 25 limit would severely hamper him and his wife. He says there are so many crappie in Rathbun and people take unbelievable numbers and it hasn’t hurt the lake. Making an exception for Rathbun of say 50 fish a day would help. The no possession limit does help. He supports the 25 limit on the smaller lakes but not at Rathbun. Limiting the daily take to 25 fish may drive him away from the lake because of the two hour drive and cost of staying two weeks. He doesn’t fish in Missouri or Illinois anymore because they have bag limits on crappie there.

9-28-08 (phone) R.L. Dotson, Keokuk – Supportive – He has been an avid bluegill and crappies fisherman for 20 or more years. Fishes Lake Sugema and Rathbun a lot. Twenty- five fish a piece is enough for anyone so long as you don’t mess with the possession limit. He routinely puts about 450 to 500 fillets in the freezer for eating over the winter. He used to hog the fish and recalls a trip to Lake Sugema a few years ago where he and his buddies cleaned about 400 fish one day and then scrambled for the bags of fillets. If everyone did that it would be trouble for future fishing. As an add he stated, “please do not place size limits on panfish.”

9-28-08 (email) Jimmy Thompson, Ames – Supportive – “It’s a good idea to put a catch limit of 25 daily on both bluegills and crappies. There is no need to keep more than that for eating purposes. Some people keeping more than that are probably not cleaning all fish, but throwing some away.”

9-28-08 (phone) Tom Doggett, Lowell – Supportive – We should have had a limit on crappie and bluegill years ago.

9-29-08 (email) Allan Shook, Mt. Pleasant – Supportive – He is an avid 82 year old fisherman who “has no objection to having daily bag limits on panfish as the fishing pressure has grown much greater over the years.” He likes the no possession limit rule. He says both Missouri and Kansas have very confusing laws with different regulations on different bodies of water. “I think Iowa in comparison to these two states is a fisherman’s dream.”

9-30-08 (email) Dave Lafever, Burlington – Supportive – He is strongly in favor of limits for crappies and bluegills in Iowa. He also recommends size restrictions. “A possession limit of two bags would not be restrictive and while I realize this is nearly impossible to enforce it would send a message of moderation to the person pulling spawning bluegills off he beds.”

10-1-08 (phone) Neal Goldsburg, no town – Supportive – Would really like to see the 25 limit go through. Also would like to see the limit on poles increased to eight or so like in Missouri.

10-1-08 (letters) Les Lammegs, Spencer; Ronald Mathers, Kingsley; Dennis Veenger, Sibley; Max Utesch, LeMars; Dennis and Linda Carlson, Milford; Michael Mack, Burt; Bob Wittkop, LeMars; Ron Holtzen, Ringsted; Joanne Klohs, LeMars; Steve Ohm, LeMars; Derek Langel, LeMars; Steve Rowe, LeMars; Don Langel, LeMars; Merlyn Feddersen, Hartley; Mike McDougall, LeMars; Scott Lauters, LeMars; Randall Kroese, LeMars; Kirk Klohs, LeMars; Ron Van Kalsbeek, Hospers; Wayne Boggman, Hartley; Rog Klopp, LeMars; Frank Tritz, LeMars; David Hoffman, LeMars; Bruce Tewes, Hartley – Supportive – They are unable to attend any of the public meetings but support the proposal of a daily limit of 25 crappie and 25 bluegill.

10-1-08 (letter) Landon Dillingham, Spirit Lake – Supportive – He fully supports the 25 crappie and bluegill limit and thinks it is a very good idea to help our environment.

10-1-08 (email) Robin, no town – Not Supportive – He did not know there was a problem with panfish being extinct that we need to put on a bag limit. He says you cannot afford to travel if you cannot keep more than 25 fish. He is not against a limit of say 30 to 50 fish. Under the new provision he would be able to keep 9,125 fish a year, but he never will be in a position to ever have this many. There are days when he can catch 50 or so. Lower my license fee if you set a limit. The limit set on the Mississippi River is great because most people fishing on the river don’t want to eat the sewer ridden fish that swim in those waters.

10-2-08 (letters) Tanner Green, Lake Park; Paul Donnerwerth, Spirit Lake; Jeff Alger, Milford; Ken Rfynohs, Arnolds Park; Kim Andrea, Milford; Pat Graves, Arnolds Park; Norm Herzog, Arnolds Park; LeRoy Herdeman, Spirit Lake; Quinton Rifmruth, Milford; Rodney Swanson, Spirit Lake; Lyn Johnson, Milford; Robert Simanek, Arnolds Park; Jim Burgeson, Arnolds Park; Shane Kendall, Spirit Lake; Jeff Koos, Spirit Lake; Dale Mellmann, Arnolds Park; Neal Haush, Okoboji; Monica Heideman, Spirit Lake; Deb Kyle, Milford; Dan Gand, Spirit Lake; Tim Jansen, Spirit Lake; Darlene Leiss, Spirit Lake; Doyle Leiss, Spirit Lake; Jeff Kyle, Milford; LeRoy Koep, Spirit Lake; Harvey Larson, Milford; Patricia Hyatt, Milford; Merle Dopp, Spirit Lake; Marvin Hyatt, Terril; Chris Alger, Milford; Arnold Tober, Milford; Al Hicks, Milford; Harry Oakley, Holstein; Vance Guinn, Spirit Lake; Dennis Stoltenberg, Lake Park; Ron Lange, Spirit Lake; Dave VanRoekel, Spirit Lake; Shane Rossor, Jackson, MN; Bill Kramme III, Spirit Lake – Supportive – They are unable to attend any of the public meetings but support the proposal of a daily limit of 25 crappie and 25 bluegill.

10-4-08 (email) John Richers, Fort Madison – Supportive – He says we should put a 25 limit on everyone and enforce it. He has been fishing crappies for over 70 years and has seen a constant deterioration of quantity and quality of panfish fishing. He has seen out of state people come to Rathbun and boast of having 150 pounds of filets to take back to Missouri where they are allowed 15 fish.

10-4-08 (email) Harlan Herbst, LeMars – Supportive – He supports the limits of 25 crappie and 25 bluegill.

10-5-08 (email) Linda Vande Kieft, Wilton – Supportive – As an avid crappie fisherman she travels to Missouri to fish in addition to Rathbun. She is used to Missouri's limits and feel they are good for the fishermen. Hearing people brag about the hundreds of crappie they take out of Rathbun, the question is Why? With the limits, you can catch enough for a decent meal and have a reason to go back for another outing.

10-5-08 (email) Thomas Doering, Davenport – Supportive – He is fully in favor of the proposed amendments. He believes these changes would help prevent those selfish fishermen who take hundreds of fish per day from some lakes in southern Iowa.

10-6-08 (letter) John Harris, Cedar Falls – Supportive – Views the proposal as merely a start of what would be appropriate regulation of the fisheries. Would like to see a possession limit on panfish in addition to the daily bag limit. He hopes to see more regulations including those directed at specific lakes and waterways. He contends we are way behind the curve on regulations compared to those found in neighboring states.

10-7-08 (letter) Jim Glosser – Centerville – Supportive – “This is the right thing to do.” He has witnessed a group from Illinois catch and keep 1,000 to 1,200 crappies a day with some only being 4 – 6 inches long. He says this is excessive, greedy and poor sportsmanship.

10-7-08 (email) Jeff Pierson – Ottumwa – Supportive – He totally agrees with the proposal and says it is long overdue. Says we also need a size limit on crappie. Residents from Illinois and Missouri come up here and have 5 gallon buckets with 6-inch crappie to clean. He believes size limits have enhanced the size of fish in Missouri. He also would like to see Iowa increase the number of poles for crappie tournaments. Contends that only Iowa and Minnesota limit the number of poles for crappies. We would get more southern teams to come to Iowa and help tourism if we relaxed the pole limit.

10-7-08 (email) Bob Card – no town – Not Supportive – Says most if not all our lakes and rivers are overrun with panfish and stunted.

10-8-08 (email) Eric Stark – Nebraska – Supportive – He feels a limit of 25 on both species would do no harm. “Fifty fish equals 100 fillets and that is a lot of cleaning and a lot of eating.” He is unsure of what the effects of putting the proposed limit on panfish would be, but many of the surrounding states have limits and tend to maintain quality fish. If it would cause more harm due to over population than he is against it. It strikes a bone with him when he hears of anglers

catching 200 to 300 bluegills at a time out of lakes. He says he has confidence that the Iowa DNR will make the right decision.

10-8-08 (email) Gary Beyer – Camanche – Not Supportive – He says that with hunting and fishing revenues already on a downward trend and the economy stretching everyone, why would he drive as much as 100 miles to the nearest good lake for 25 fish? He wants us to keep it reasonable.

10-8-08 (email) Dan Marron – Nebraska – Supportive – He doesn't think a 25 per species limit will be a big deal other than it's change and the masses don't like change. It will prevent the buckets from being taken out during those vulnerable times in late winter before ice out and spawn times. He says just don't mess it up like Nebraska and put too tight of restrictions leading to lakes full of panfish that are stunted because there are so many. He believes we do a terrific job in Iowa and our programs are "heads and shoulders above Nebraska." He is not sure why we are proposing the limits but trusts our biologists.

10-9-08 (email) Erik Mottl - Grinnell - Supportive – He is in favor of the 25 fish limit, but hopes in the future the number is reduced even further. He has witnessed many people on days when the bite is on fill 5 gallon buckets of crappie. He objects to some people taking so much away from the rest of the anglers. He believes we would have better fishing in Iowa if these some of these fish were given another year or more to grow.

10-10-08 (email) Duane Billman – no town – Supportive – He says Missouri has had crappie limits for years and they have excellent fishing. He believes Iowa lakes need crappie and bluegill limits because of the fish hogs we have in this state.

10-10-08 (letter) Wilbur & Joy Muller – Grundy Center – Not Supportive – They enjoy catching and eating crappie and bluegill. They drive to Green Valley Lake to fish in the spring and catch enough fish to last them until the next spring. They will probably not drive that far to fish anymore if they can only bring home 25 crappie and 25 bluegill. They think a lot of revenue in Iowa will be lost. They also believe that the fish will become overpopulated and not grow.

10-10-08 (letter) Joe & Nancy Hammar, Shere Bluhm, Jessica Bluhm, and E K Bluhm; New Hartford and Roger & Verlene Damon and Lee & Kathy Aalfs; Parkersburg – Not Supportive – They object to the 25 daily bag limit on panfish and hope the committee considers the ramifications of passing such a law.

**Public Hearing
Cedar Falls
October 1, 2008**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Pat & Jerry Nagel	3710 S. Raymond Rd, Waterloo, IA 50701
Aaron Nagel	1621 6 th St., Gilbertsville, IA 50634
David Strack	2745 E. Big Rock Rd., Waterloo, IA 50703
Andy Gray	2111 Marquis Rd. Waterloo, IA 50622

John Nagel
Bruce Timmerman

253 Michigan Dr., Elk Run Hgts., IA 50707
2611 N. 8th St., Waterloo, IA

10-1-2008 Public Hearing Located at Cedar Falls

Jerry Nagel – Not Supportive – He has fished all the lakes in southern Iowa. They camp at Green Valley Lake and have fish fries for all the campers. He and his wife commonly catch 90 to 200 fish per day. They never keep bass. He says they stand right by anglers who can't catch any fish and then they blame us for ruining the lake. He and his wife had 1,400 fish in the freezer and ran out. They clean every fish they keep and do not waste them. Sometimes they give fish away. If this goes through a lot of people will quit camping.

Pat Nagel – Not Supportive – She says they have never fished out a lake. They usually camp at Green Valley from late April to mid June.

David Strack – Not Supportive – If surrounding states have restrictive bag limits on panfish, then limit them to that limit when they fish here. Don't punish us.

Aaron Nagel – Not Supportive – Does not see a need for a limit.

Andy Gray – Not Supportive – The decision ought to be based on good science rather than on people's feelings.

John Nagel – Not Supportive – We have caught tons of fish from Greenfield Lake and it is always good again next year. When DNR drains a lake they kill way more fish than we do as anglers. He can't believe it won't monetarily hurt local communities. He said that if there was a study that showed we hurt fishing in a lake, than he could understand. He hopes it hasn't already been decided because it would be the biggest mistake.

Bruce Timmerman – Not Supportive – He asked why we are doing this if not based on science. He thinks we need to get the word out to more people that heavy fishing doesn't hurt a lake. He says fishermen trust us to base decisions on science, not emotion.

**Public Hearing
Spirit Lake
October 2, 2008**

Name

Address

Steve Anderson	705 6 th Street, Milford, Iowa 51351
Ryan Hale	1711 Jeppeson Road, West Okoboji, Iowa 51351
Joel Vos	1210 28 th Street, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360
Greg Drees	196 Park Place, Arnolds Park, Iowa 51331
Roger Wachal	606 20 th Street, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360
Joe Ulman	13620 240 th Avenue, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360
Larry Eckard	12275 253 rd Avenue, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360

Scott Berry	15825 Furman Road, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360
Phil Petersen	2305 Holliday Way, Okoboji, Iowa 51355
Steve Weissman	PO Box 200, Arnolds Park, Iowa 51331
Joe Enders	25762 168 th Street, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360
Gary Biederman	207 East Watson, Everly, Iowa 51338
Orville Belken	Box 28, Arnolds Park, Iowa 51331
Gretchen Graff	13175 253 rd Avenue, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360
Wally Jorgensen	1409 28 th Street, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360
Scott	508 25 th Street SW, Spencer, Iowa 51301
Ron Wasmund	482 Dam Road, Arnolds Park, Iowa 51331
Ken Mead	512 4 th Avenue SW, Spencer, Iowa 51301
Viola Hagedorn	13367 253 rd Avenue, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360

10-2-2008 Public Hearing Located at Spirit Lake:

Joe Anders, Spirit Lake – Supportive. Would like to see the limit even more restrictive: 25 fish aggregate – bluegill, crappie, yellow perch. He believes ice fishing pressure on IGL is significant and could be harming the fishery.

Ryan Hale, West Okoboji – Supportive. He is a guide on IGL and owns a small resort that caters to anglers. He has a concern that the bag limit might encourage an even greater harvest because anglers want to catch their limit and may not stop until they do. He also has customers from Wisconsin who have told him they like the liberal panfish limits in Iowa and if a bag limit is implemented they would stop coming. This regulation may hurt bait shops and businesses in the area.

Wally Jorgensen, Spirit Lake – Supportive. He represents the IGL Fishing Club (200 members) and they feel this is an ethics issue and they like the regulation because it places a value on panfish.

Steve Anderson, Milford – Not supportive. He is opposed to the regulation because he believes it is not science based and the research shows it will not improve or protect the fishery. Minnesota DNR have utilized panfish bag limits in order to please anglers and the fishery has not improved so anglers believe something is wrong. If the Iowa DNR is going to place a bag limit on panfish then they should place one on bullhead because their populations have declined and they are getting more and more difficult to catch.

Viola Hagedorn, Spirit Lake – Supportive. Would like to see the limit even more restrictive: 25 fish aggregate – bluegill, crappie, yellow perch.

Joel Vos, Spirit Lake – Not supportive. Panfish size has gotten smaller in Minnesota because of limits they have placed, so more anglers are coming to Iowa to catch larger sized fish. Why would we make the same mistake?

Joe Ulman, Spirit Lake – Supportive. He likes the balance with the daily bag limit, but no possession limit. This will help stop the buckets full going out of our lakes.

Ron Wasmund, Arnolds Park – Supportive. On Lake Minnewashta the quality (size) of the bluegills has gone down. He is opposed to buckets full going out and is hopeful that this regulation will improve the size in the future.

Ken Mead, Spencer – Supportive. Bluegills are an excellent fish to get kids interested in fishing. This is a valuable resource that we need to protect and he would favor a possession limit along with the bag limit.

Steve Weisman, Arnolds Park – Supportive. The 25 fish limit is truly a bucket of fish – that is plenty. There is a need to limit some anglers who can't limit themselves. This is an ethical issue and in his opinion 25 is enough. He realizes the limit does not have biological reasons.

Gretchen Graff, Spirit Lake – Supportive. Supporting the opinion of the IGL Fishing Club on this issue.

Orville Belken, Arnolds Park – Supportive. He doesn't approve of Wisconsin anglers coming to the IGL and harvesting excessive numbers of panfish. South Dakota has limits on panfish and he still travels there and purchases a license to catch yellow perch. Harvesting fish until you have to eat 40 per day is not right.

**Public Hearing
Des Moines
October 3, 2008**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Terry Hampshire	906 Elm, Norwalk, IA
Jack Salsbury	1008 Maple Ave., Norwalk, IA
Don Rieks	1007 Belle Mar Dr., West Des Moines, IA
Sonny Satre	4305 68 th St., Urbandale, IA
Bob Dowson	4141 52 nd , Des Moines, IA
Joe Judge	4708 Cody Dr., West Des Moines, IA

10-3-2008 Public Hearing Located in Des Moines

Bob Dowson - Supportive - He has been in favor of a bag limit for many years. He has fished for 60 years or more. He has witnessed an angler who disposed of a bucket full of crappie into the fish cleaning station grinder at Big Creek Lake. We have to respect the resource and believes a bag limit would help fortify that.

Sonny Satre - Supportive - Believes 25 fish is plenty for anyone.

Don Riecks - Supportive - He is a property owner at Sun Valley Lake. They have a 15 limit on crappie and a 25 limit on bluegill. It has been working. They have 9 – 10 inch bluegill and crappie up to 16 inches. He is all for the 25 daily bag limit.

Terry Hampshire - Not Supportive - He thinks there is a lot of jealousy among anglers. He believes people will quit fishing if the regulation is implemented. He says he has heard for years from us that you can't hurt a lake by over fishing. He cooks fish for a retirement home in Norwalk and it takes about 50 fish. He says nonresidents spend a lot of money here. We need to address water quality and not bag limits. Our crappie fishing is so much better than adjoining states.

Joe Judge - Supportive - Twenty-five crappie is pretty liberal. He says crappies are bigger in Kansas where they have a bag limit. He would like to see a size limit on crappies because people here often keep 5 to 6-inch fish.

Jack Salsbury – Supportive – He fishes a lot and says he is in favor of the proposed limits.

**Public Hearing
Ottumwa
October 10, 2008**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
James Glosser	16497 HWY J29, Centerville, IA
Terry Jennings	31188 485 th St., Unionville, IA
Bruce Switala	2715 Clearview, Ottumwa, IA
Pat Nicolette	2005 Dix Drive, Unionville, IA
George & Pat Scalf	123 N. Madison Ave., Ottumwa, IA

10-09-08 Public Hearing Located Near Ottumwa

George Scalf – Not Supportive - He understands and supports the 25 limit on crappie but not on bluegill. He believes when you thin down bluegill you have better size quality.

Terry Jennings - Supportive - Twenty-five fish is a good number. He is opposed to people keeping too many fish and not cleaning them all. It is a waste of a resource. He wishes we had a possession limit too.

Bruce Switala – Supportive— Claims the crappie fishing in Lake Rathbun has gone downhill especially for large fish. Has observed an increase in fishing pressure. He also would support a 10-inch size limit. He says we need to enforce the regulations. He did express concern about the growth of crappie in smaller lakes.

Pat Nicolette - Supportive - He agrees with the rule proposal. States that you can catch bigger fish in Missouri where there are limits. He has observed crappies being discarded from 5 gallon buckets and wasted.

Jim Glosser - Supportive - He has seen a few groups of greedy people spoil it for everyone else. There is a group of six Illinois anglers in three boats who fish Rathbun during the crappie spawn to fill the freezer they have brought. He'd rather see the catch spread among more people.